ABSTRACT

A method and system of simplified configuration of a network element. A network element having a direct access module and an arbitrary unknown address is coupled to a same physical subnet as a management node. The management node broadcasts a discovery broadcast to identify the existence of the network element. If a response is received indicating an address outside an access range of the management node, it sends an additional broadcast targeted to the network element force the network element to change its address to one within an access range of the management node. Once the address is changed, the management node may connect to and configure the network element using standard protocols.